Exchanges in the State of Haryana particularly in Narwana (District Jind) telephone Exchange;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the equipment of the mechanical Exchanges has failed to provide efficient services to the public;

(c) whether the government propose to consider the replacement of all the Exchanges of Haryana by Electronic equipment. If so, by what time it is likely to be replaced;

(d) whether Government propose to fulfill its promise to replace equipment of Narwana Exchange; and

(e) by what time it will start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, he complaints of No-dial Tone/Held up etc; are received from time to time.

(b) The services and facilities of electro-mechanical exchanges are not comparable with that of electronic exchanges as expected by the subscribers. In case of Narwana, 600 lines MAX II (US type) was installed in 1988 and expanded in steps to 1200 lines in 1990-91. The performance of this exchange is quite satisfactory.

(c) At present, it is not possible to replace all the Electro-Mechanical exchanges by electronic equipments due to constraints of funds. However, life expired and worn out electro-mechnical exchanges which is 20 years in this case are replaced on availability of required equipments.

(d) and (e) At present, it may not be possible to replace Narwana MAX-II (U/S type). However, C-DOT type 424 lines electronic exchanges is proposed to be introduced during 93-94 in addition to MAX-II exchange to cater to new demands.

Provision of telephones in all villages of Haryana

421. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA. Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to provide telephones in all 6500 villages of Haryana State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) by what time this work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government propose to provide telephone in all 6745 (and not 6500) villages of Haryana State.

(b) and (c) (i) As a first steps, the Governmetn have adopted a policy to cover all the Panchayat Villages with telephone facility Progressively by 31st March, 1995 subject to availability of resources.

(ii) As on 30th November, 1993, out of a total of 5792 Panchayat Villages in Haryana, 4172 such villages have been covered with telephone facility.

(iii) Provision of telephone facility in non-panchayat villages has been proposed during the period April, 1995 to March, 2000.

422. (*Transferred to 15th December, 1993*)

Strike of Telecom Employee's Federations

423. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the three Federations of Telecom Employees' Unions have served notice for a nationwide indefinite strike from 6th December, 1993;

(b) what are the demands of the unions; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes ,Sir.

(b) The demands of the Unions are:

(i) No duality/multiplicity of DOT structure.

(ii) No fragmentation/privatisation of DOT services.

(iii) Creation of independent Telecom. Finance Corporation to avoid the need of Corporatisation.

(c) The following steps have been taken by the Department to tackle the situation:

(i) The Staff Federations have been addressed on 22-11-93 indicating to them in detail the position on the items of demand contained in the strike notice. The unions have been told through this letter that there were absolutely no ground justifying the strike and they have been advised to withdraw the strike notice.

(ii) A meeting of the staff federations was held with the Chairman Telecom Commission on 26-11-93 and a committee has been set up to go into the three points which constitute the substance of the strike notice and give its report. The Federations have indicated that they are deferring the strike to 21-12-93.

(iii) Reference has also been made to the Regional Labour Commissioner, New Delhi under the ID Act for taking up concilition proceedings.

Every effort would be made to de-fuse the situtaion. Necessary steps have also been taken to tackle the situation as effectively as possible in case the strike materialies.

Irregularities in clearing of mail bags in Calcutta

424. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Mail Bags are not fully cleared daily in the G.P.O., Calcutta and R.M.S. Offices in West Bengal Circle, causing irregular and uncertain postal deliveries; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure quick, regular postal deliveries in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No Sir, this is not the general case. However some accumulation of mail in GPO/RMS Offices in West Bengal Circle takes place on occasions of bandh/strike/civil disturbances other causes beyond the control of the Department. The concerned posta authorities monitor transmission/delivery of mails on a day-to-day basis in order to ensure regular delivery of mails.

Corporation in MTNL Amongst Linemen and others

425. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the middle level employees of Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited have been agitating against the increasing corruption and indiscipline among the linemen and regular mazdoors.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to inquire into the situation created by the impasse among